

and West Germany. His contributions to the effort against the Soviet Union helped advance the cause for democracy around the world.

After he was discharged from the Army at the rank of E-4 Specialist in 1963, Mr. Biedenbach dedicated his time to his fellow veterans, volunteering to transport veterans to and from the Veterans Affairs clinic in Canton. Today, he is a member of American Legion Canton Post 44, where he serves on the Burial Honor Guard.

On November 11, 2016, Richard was named Veteran of the Year by the Greater Canton Veterans Council for his selfless commitment to caring for and improving the lives of his fellow veterans.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly an honor to represent SPC Richard Biedenbach in the United States Congress. He established a patriotic example for all Americans to emulate and I am humbled to recognize Mr. Biedenbach's service to our great nation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE DUCHESS OUTLET FOR 60 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE GREATER PITTSBURGH AREA

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Caprari Family of Pittston for celebrating the 60th Anniversary of their family business, the Duchess Outlet, last year on Friday, November 11. The Duchess Outlet, which began as a textile manufacturer, operates as a retail clothing outlet and seller of heirloom toys.

Established in 1956 by Sam and Theresa Caprari, the Duchess Coat & Suit Manufacturing plant was a major garment producer for northeastern Pennsylvania and employed over 150 workers. As the business grew, the Duchess opened a discount retail outlet that offered raincoats, wool jackets, leathers, and outerwear.

When Sam and Theresa retired, they handed over the business to their son Paul and his wife Paula. The Duchess Outlet expanded their inventory with suits, sport jackets, outerwear, and name-brand raincoats. The store also began carrying Madame Alexander Dolls and opened a Doll Museum. The Museum now has more than 1,000 pieces, dating from the 1930s to the present.

In addition to operating the Duchess Outlet, the Caprari family has a long record of service to their community and country. During World War II, Sam Caprari served as a military aircraft-manufacturing instructor. He was a member of the Greater Pittston Chamber of Commerce, the Lions Club, the Elks Club, and the Italian American Association. Theresa is the Vice-President of the Business and Professional Women's Club Association. She was also a member of National Federation of Independent Business and the Pennsylvania Mental Health Association.

Paul Caprari is the founder of Hear for You, a program that provides hearing aids to those who cannot afford them. Paul also serves with the Knights of Columbus Council 372 as a 4th Degree Knight. Paula Caprari has received

multiple honors and awards for overseeing Duchess Outlet Doll Museum, including being recognized by the Madame Alexander Company. Julio Caprari is also a 4th Degree Knight of Columbus with Council 372. As Co-Chairman of Pittston City History Day, Julio has worked with Misericordia University and Luzerne County Agency on Aging to preserve the history of Greater Pittston.

It is an honor to recognize the Caprari family as they celebrate the Duchess Outlet's 60th Anniversary. May they continue to serve their neighbors and community in the Greater Pittston Area with distinction.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, due to other commitments, I missed the following roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll call no. 86, I would have voted yes. Roll call no. 87, I would have voted yes.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF FALL-EN MISSISSIPPI SOLDIER ARMY SERGEANT (SGT) TIMOTHY R. OSBEY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in memory of Army Sergeant (SGT) Timothy R. Osbey who paid the ultimate sacrifice while defending our great nation February 16, 2005, during Operation Iraqi Freedom III. SGT Osbey lost his life along with Army Sergeant (SGT) Joseph Andrew "Drew" Rahaim when a roadway collapsed and their vehicle rolled into a canal at Forward Operation Base Iskandariyah, Iraq.

SGT Osbey, a Mississippi Army National Guard soldier and Pike County native, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment (Mechanized), Mississippi Army National Guard, McComb, MS. SGT Osbey served as an emergency medical technician. Before he entered the military, SGT Osbey excelled in track at the University of Southern Mississippi. During his funeral, Rev. Alphonse Patterson remembered SGT Osbey as a gifted athlete who also achieved academic success. SGT Osbey was a University of Southern Mississippi graduate.

Major General (MG) Harold A. Cross, Adjutant General of the Mississippi Army National Guard, presented SGT Osbey posthumously with a Bronze Star medal for meritorious service and a Mississippi Medal of Valor.

SGT Osbey will always be remembered as a role model who inspired so many others he served with. SGT Osbey is survived by his wife, Willie Marie Dickerson Osbey and daughter, Saderia Osbey.

HONORING WAYNE OLDHAM

HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, from time to time members of this House rise, address the body to honor events in their districts, members of their communities, or occurrences in their towns. To be read into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is an honor our constituents cherish. Today, though Mr. Speaker, the honor is all mine to rise and tell this body about one of the Tennessee 7th Congressional District's most cherished and devoted citizens, Wayne Oldham, as his life and homegoing is celebrated this week.

Wayne was born in Montgomery County and made his life there and at every stage of his life, he would be found championing the conservative cause. From creating the Austin Peay State University College Republican chapter still in existence today, to being the longest serving State Executive Committee member of the Tennessee Republican Party, Wayne had a drive and a passion to support the people and causes he held dear. There was never a meeting too small or a race too insignificant for Wayne to attend and support. He was a fixture in Clarksville and his absence will be felt for years to come.

There are those whose light shines so brightly, boldly, and consistently that we are confident their legacy will remain long after they are gone. I join with family, friends, political activists, neighbors, committee members, and all those who will miss Wayne's supportive phone calls, his never-fading friendship, and his heart-felt laugh. I ask my colleagues to join with me in remembrance of my dear friend. May his life's work be a reminder in serving the world around us, no matter how big or small.

RECOGNIZING MR. CHARLES BARTLETT

HON. KEN BUCK

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. BUCK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Charles Bartlett on being posthumously inducted into the Colorado Agriculture Hall of Fame. This honor is reserved for those who have made a significant contribution to the agricultural industry of Colorado and the United States.

Mr. Bartlett made a substantial impact on the Colorado agriculture industry throughout his lifetime. He got his start at an early age, when he undertook a supervisory role on his family's farm when he was 20 years old. Dedicating his time to protecting Coloradan's water and agriculture, he became Chairman of the Colorado Water Conservation Board and co-founded First FarmBank and FarmBank Holding Company.

Mr. Bartlett maintained a commitment to education in his community. He served on several school boards including the Board of Cooperative Educational Services and the Bufalo School District Board of Education. He received numerous prestigious awards, including

the Colorado Corn Amicus Friend of Agriculture Award, throughout his lifetime for his many acts of public service. It is clear that he cared greatly about bettering his community through leadership and hard work.

On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Colorado, I extend my best wishes to the family of Mr. Charles Bartlett. His passion and dedication to the agricultural industry makes him more than worthy of this distinct recognition. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Mr. Charles Bartlett for his accomplishments.

RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH CACHERO SELECTION AS A DELEGATE TO THE CONGRESS OF FUTURE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LEADERS

HON. JUAN VARGAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joseph Cachero, a student at Hilltop High School in Chula Vista, California, for his selection to represent the State of California as a Delegate at the Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders. The event will be held at the Tsongas Center at University of Massachusetts Lowell in Lowell, MA, from June 29, 2017 to July 1, 2017.

The Congress of Future Science and Technology Leaders is an honors-only program designed to motivate and direct the top students in our country who aspire to be scientists, engineers, and technologists and encourage them to stay true to their dream. All delegates are nominated by their teachers or the National Academy of Future Scientists based on proven academic excellence and a demonstrated desire to enter the scientific or technology professions.

I want to congratulate Joseph Cachero and Hilltop High School in their success and leadership in the scientific field.

TRIBUTE TO JOYCE WATTS

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend Joyce Watts.

After 40 years as Allegan County Clerk and Register, this past December Joyce made the tough decision to hang it up and retire.

She did so as the longest-serving elected county clerk in the entire state of Michigan and simply put one of the most dedicated public servants our great state has ever seen.

Joyce juggled many duties in her career. Before she was clerk-register, she was register of deeds for 12 years. She also served on the board of directors of the National Association of County Records and Clerks.

Joyce always impressed me with her professionalism, work-ethic, and tireless advocacy on behalf of our corner of the state. Joyce was someone you could trust to get the job done right. And as a clerk handling elections, it's absolutely imperative you have someone of her character and integrity serving in that position.

There is no doubting her passion and commitment. But above all, Joyce was a wife, mother, and a friend to me and countless others in our Allegan community.

And so, I want to wish Joyce, her husband John, and their son Jason and his wife Lesley best of luck in the coming years and I look forward to remaining close friends.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CECILIA ZÁRATE-LAUN

HON. MARK POCAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Cecilia Zárate-Laun, a constituent and dear friend of mine who dedicated her life to building a more just and peaceful world. I first met Cecilia while serving on the Dane County Board of Supervisors in Wisconsin, where we worked together on a sister-city relationship between Dane County and Apartadó, in Antioquia, Colombia. I had the honor of visiting Apartadó on a delegation that Cecilia led, and worked with her to host Colombian dignitaries visiting the U.S. over the years.

Cecilia was born in 1945 in the Santander Province in Colombia. The eldest of five sisters, she studied nutrition in Bogotá, and later, as a Master's student at the University of Wisconsin. In 1976, she married Jack Laun, whom she had met while studying in the United States. They celebrated their 40th anniversary together last year.

Her lifelong mission was to educate and inspire ordinary people to become involved in the messy work of democracy. She had an intimate understanding that efforts to change government policy here in the U.S. had a profound impact on the lives of untold billions across the world. By shifting our priorities away from militarism and war-making, the United States could instead contribute to sustainable development and solving real human needs globally.

Co-founding the Colombia Support Network (CSN) in 1987, Cecilia went on to lead more than 50 delegations of residents of the United States to Colombia, supporting the formation of CSN chapters in the U.S. and matching them with communities in areas of conflict. CSN sought to achieve peace with justice in Colombia by changing U.S. policy and minimizing the violence faced by people caught between guerrillas on the one hand and state security forces and paramilitaries on the other.

Cecilia's commitment to social and economic equality, and a deep sense of solidarity with people around the world, drove her tireless efforts. That passion had a lasting effect on me and will continue to inform my work and the values I strive to uphold as a public servant.

Even in the weeks just before her passing, she worked closely with me as we pursued strategies to ensure accountability, truth, and justice for the victims of Colombia's 50-year conflict. She lived to see the end of Colombia's brutal civil war, which was the fruit of her labors and the efforts of persistent, dedicated peace activists just like her. Her life is a window into the decades-long commitment from millions of people in order to produce real social change.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor that I recognize the life and legacy of Cecilia Zárate-Laun today.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, on February 7, 2017, I did not cast my vote on roll call votes No. 81 and No. 82. Had I been present, I would have voted "NAY" on both votes.

On February 14, 2017, I was unavoidably absent due to illness and unable to cast my votes on roll call votes Nos. 88 through 92. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: Roll call vote 88 on ordering the previous question; NAY; Roll call vote 89 on agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 99; NAY; Roll call vote 90 on ordering the previous question; NAY; Roll call vote 91 on agreeing to the Resolution, H. Res. 116; NAY; Roll call vote 92 on final passage of H.R. 428, the Red River Gradient Boundary Survey Act; NAY.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF KENNETH WILLIAM THOMPSON

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Downey resident, Mr. Kenneth William Thompson on the occasion of his 100th birthday.

Ken was born on February 9, 1917, to William and Eleanor Thompson in Virginia, Minnesota. The third of four boys, he spent his childhood in nearby Duluth, where the Thompson family survived the many challenges of the Great Depression. In 1940, the family moved west to California.

In 1942, at the outbreak of World War II, Ken was drafted into the U.S. Army, where he served as a Radar Technician (T5). Two of his brothers also served in World War II, in the U.S. Navy. During his tour of duty from 1942 to 1945, Ken served overseas in France, Belgium, and Germany. He fought in five major battles, including the Battle of the Bulge and at Bastogne. When the war in Europe ended, he was one of four in his unit who was scheduled to go to Japan because of his radar training, but the war ended before he shipped out.

After the war ended, Ken returned to California, where he met Vivian Laura Oden of St. Paul, Minnesota. They were married in 1948, and settled in Downey, California, where they raised their three beautiful daughters: Joan, Kathy, and Mary.

Ken was employed by Maytag for 35 years, where he worked in many positions until he retired in 1982. His loving wife, Vivian, died on February 19, 2000. Today, their family includes nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Ken has made his home in Downey for 67 years, and has been very active in the community schools, for which he was awarded the Honorary Service Award. He has also been